PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

The Tricentenial

VOLUME 1, MARCH

KICKOFF MOVES INTO HIGH GEAR!!!

The subcommittee charged with organizing the upcoming Kickoff for our Tricentennial celebration reports that plans are coming together nicely for this special community event.

Scheduled for Thursday, April 2, the Kickoff will provide an opportunity to learn of the plans that have been made for the next two years. The program will feature local speakers, entertainment, participation from our area schools and scouts and will be emceed by Mayor Billy McDonald. We are currently contacting local area restaurants to determine their interest in providing food for this event to showcase some of our fine local chefs and their respective establishments.

In order for our Tricentennial celebration to be successful in providing a permanent historic legacy for the community, the involvement of a great number of the citizens of Pass Christian is crucial. This will be an opportunity for everyone to learn how he or she can participate in making this success a reality.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the unveiling of the d'Iberville bust, commissioned specifically for the Tricentennial. The sculptor/donor, Michelle Smith, a Pass Christian resident, will be on hand to personally unveil the bust. This sculpture will be the centerpiece of our celebration and our ongoing efforts to bring the colorful history of Pass Christian to light.

As the Pass Christian Tricentennial Celebration moves forward, the primary goal of the effort is to promote knowledge and awareness of the varied history of our community. Focusing heavily on our schools and public display, the plan is to include our school children as well as adults in the community and community businesses in designing and contributing to a permanent display.

Through fund raisers, focus groups and design teams, this project will be a community effort of the highest order, and the results of the efforts of all will be a lasting tribute the to civic mindedness, pride and vision of the entire Pass Christian community.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on April 2 at the Gym at St. Paul's. The reception will begin at 6:00 PM and the program promptly at 7:00 PM. We do not anticipate the program extending beyond 8:00 PM.

We look forward to welcoming you!!!

LOCAL RESTAURANTS TO BE FEATURED

As part of the Kickoff Celebration scheduled for April 2, local area restaurants are being invited to participate by providing heavy hors d'ouvres for the attendees. This effort will allow our fine local establishments to contribute to the success of the event while showcasing their varied menus and specialties.

In order for this to be a success and not a burden on one specific restaurant, we need at least six to participate. If we are unable to generate enough interest, we will then utilize Sheriff Joe Price as our food provider.

The following restaurants have tentatively agreed to participate: Chimneys, Café de Soliel, The Four R's, St. Louis Street Café. Our thanks to them and, hopefully, we will have additional participants to announce shortly.

Along the Coast

New Orleans officials announced plans for a three-year tourist-oriented celebration beginning with 1998. This year marks the city's 280th birthday, followed by the Tercentennial celebrations, and followed-up by the "Millennium year of 2000". (It is evident that the city officials didn't read the *USA Today* news release which is reported on in this issue.)

Long Beach is in process of developing an aggressive event program with an emphasis on the First People. The emphasis will be on the re-discovery of Indian lore and culture. Several Indian gatherings, or Pow-wows, are being considered for living history activities. Mary Ellen Alexander, author of *"Rosalie and Radishes"*, is directing the Long Beach Tricentennial agenda.

Congratulations!

To the newest member of the Jenkins Family, Pass Christian welcomes Randi Lauren Jenkins who was born on February 27th at Memorial Hospital. Father Perry is doing fine and Mother Sandy is joyfolly proud of her new charge.

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Pass Archives

Pass Christian has a wealth of History and an impassioned citizenry reaching deep into its past. It is rich in folklore, legend, myth and tradition. Unfortunately, much of its documented history has been lost. Much of its governmental, educational, and church documents have been destroyed by fires or by hurricanes. Camille obliterated the educational and religious records for eternity. Through the years, much of the governmental and municipal minutes and records have been lost or destroyed. A Hancock County courthouse fire in 1853, destroyed all of the land deeds prior to that period. Harrison County was partitioned from Hancock in 1841, therefore much of the records from the Hancock County fire have been reconstituted when the change of ownership occurred. These can be found dispersed throughout extended periods of time when the need for filing took place and recorded at Harrison courthouse.

It is through the efforts of the Pass Christian Historical Society, the *Museé Bourdin*, the record collections at St. Paul's and Trinity and other churches, in addition to the many residents who realize the need to seek out their attics and closets to help preserve and recreate. The vault at the Pass Christian Historical Society is a protective depository for awaiting documents. And, Billy Bourdin provides a free copying service to anyone wishing to have him keep a duplicate copy of photographs for his historical record files

St. Paddy's Day -- Past and Present

The first St. Patrick's Parade in the "Pass" was sponsored by the West Harrison County Hibernian Social and Benefit Society, a combined Pass Christian - Long Beach parading group. On March 16, 1969, the parade route proceeded from Henderson Point through Pass Christian down Second Street to Long Beach and back again down Highway 90. It consisted of truck floats which were "hangovers" from the Mardi Gras parades.

The Honorable Mayors J.J. O'Wittman and Bob O'Reed of the sister cities issued separate proclamations honoring the Wearing of the Green. "We invite all Irish men and women and those *'Irish at Heart'* to participate in the parade or to make their presence made in bidding the passing cavalcade."

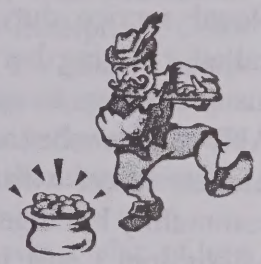
Honorary Grand Marshalls were Bill O'Fennel of Long Beach and Parnel McKay of the Pass. The Honorary Parade Marshalls were Major James O'Cerra, Sam O'Armato, Ted O'Boyle, Mrs. Virginia O'DeFreitas, Vincent O'Ruspoli, Benjamin O'Carruba, Peter O'Casano, Rory Rafferty, Tom O'Bourdin, and Katy McGuire O'Caire.

Everyone enjoyed a great time with the exception of one incident. Gerald O'Toole, a true Irishman, while riding in one of the first floats, heard on his return that his Service station in Henderson Point was robbed of $114.00.

With the revival of celebrating St. Pat in 1995, once more the annual call is made to all men and women to hearken to the Little People of Ireland, the Leprechauns are coming. Wearin' o' the Green is the order of the Day. Pass Christian will once more pass the cabbage and flow with green beer. Erin go Bragh! is the banner for Sunday, March 15th as the Krewe of Blarney, the only walking parade on the Coast, will strut down Scenic Drive at 12:30 p.m. Routing from the VFW Hall at the Park the second liners, band, boy scouts, flag and flower cane bearers, will jig to jazz along the way with several toasting stops before reaching the Miramar Nursing Lodge. The front line VIPs dressed in tux with green sashes will include political officials and business and professionals, led by Grand Marshall Scottie Cuevas, Senator for District #46, accompanied by his Colleen, Miss Melinda Malley, Pass Hi Senior.

Major Jim Cerra will be the only person to have strutted in each parade since 1969, and still insists on carrying the Italian Flag. Each year the parade Krewes and parade attendance has doubled in size. **See you at the parade!**

COME JOIN THE WALK WITH
GRAND MARSHAL
SENATOR SCOTTIE CUEVAS!



St. Paddy's Parade 1988 - Colleen Melissa Kaye Malley

Melissa is an 18 year old Senior at Pass Christian High School enjoying herself with an assortment of avocations and hobbies, such as: horseback riding, playing basketball and softball, participating in community activities, and enjoys her home life with her family.

Always active, she has been and is a member of numerous clubs, such as: Beta Club, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Interact Club, French Club, Future Educators of America, Student Council, and the Cheerleading Squad.

As a recipient of many honors and awards, some are listed as: Homecoming Maid, Who's Who among American High School Students, Honor Roll, Citizenship, Typing, Data Processing, Geography, Chemistry, Trigonometry, and Athletic awards.

Never shy and aggressively interested in community activities, she volunteers at the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, nursing homes, senior citizen activities, the Special Olympics, including church and cemetery cleanups.

Profile

Betty Carlin

Betty Bankston Carlin, a devoted history buff is one of the legions of Pass historians. She traces her interest in historic cultures to her early education at Raymond, Mississippi.

With the escalation of World War II, Betty joined the volunteer force of women engaged in Naval service duty, or the WAVES, as it was called. During her tour of the world she visited many military bases. One of these was Keesler AFB where she and Bill Carlin met up for a lifetime career with a mutual interest in Hometown community heritage. Soon after their return to the Mississippi Coast in 1965, their home was denigrated by the rages of Hurricane Camille. Undaunted, like many other Coastians, they survived and continued their interest in the historical developments of coastal communities.

Betty ascribes her interest in Pass Christian directly to a 1975 course offered at USM Gulf Park. She was assigned to report on the historical origins of Pass Christian. Little did she realize that it would become her lifetime assignment. Straightaway she was confronted with a meaningful scarcity of organized resources. This study effort occurred concurrently with the revival of the Pass Historical Society, which was followed in 1976, with the Bicentennial celebrations and pageantry.

She spearheaded a program to record taped interviews of elder citizens of the Pass. This oral history project began in 1976, which resulted in accumulating some 50 tape recordings of an impressive assemblage of distinguished and well informed citizens. Further, Betty extended her efforts by transcribing the tapes to typed documents, which are a mixed array of historical and folklore data.

Recently, the Historical Society sponsored a very informative symposium led by leading citizens who presented various subjects on the past of the Pass. Again, Betty volunteered her services to translate the presentations proffered by the local panelists.

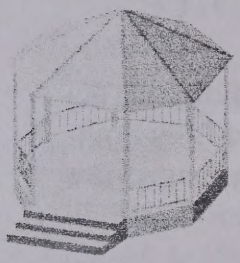
Betty and Bill Carlin are emphatic in their desire not only to fill in the holes of unrecorded history of the Pass, but further, to process available resources with authenticity. In establishing historical correctness, they are avid researchers and readers of many printed releases of old archives and current printed matter. Understandably, they both get piqued if the effort for accuracy is ignored.

Betty is also an accomplished writer of several articles about Pass Christian's culture and history. One of her early articles, *Pass Christian, A Delightful Summer Resort*, was featured in a 1977 issue of the now defunct, Down South Magazine. When husband, Bill Carlin retired in 1985, he joined in the journey to authenticate and gather Pass information. His dedication has been as avid as Betty's. He took charge of documenting and measuring many of the registered, grand, giant Live Oaks of the Pass.

They served as curators of the Historical Society archives for many years as they have strived to keep the doors open. Both, are very gracious people in assisting the innovative researcher seeking resource information.

A Victorian Gazebo for the Pass

by Dan Ellis



What a more delightful location -- but to have placed a Victorian Gazebo at the City's Memorial Park overlooking the Mississippi Sound and the celebrated Scenic Drive.

This historic site is part of the land grant deeded by the Widow Asmar in 1799, to her trusted, freed slave, Charles (Charlot). Before his death in 1835, he sold a small portion of his vast acreage to Francisco Fleitas, Sr. While visiting the Pass, Marie Modeste Dorothia Cuccullu met her Spanish "conquistador" and married him. Their beautiful home and gardens graced the wonderful promenade of Live Oaks which are still symmetrically spreading a welcome shade and enveloping shadows. Also, in residence, during those bygone days, were exotic peacocks spreading their feathered plumage in splendor with beautiful arrays of color.

The Gazebo took its shape in 1983, when it was sponsored by the *"Ladies of the Harbor Shop"*. The architectural design was a donated rendering by Dale Thompson who conceived the octagonal shaped structure with a diameter of 24 feet which extended upward 12 feet above the raised floor to its roofline.

The Harbor Shop, a non-profit organization chartered in 1955, was located in the Exchange Building at 203 E. Scenic Drive. The volunteer ladies sold consigned antiques and crafts as its major fundraiser and allocated its proceeds to various community benefits. Unfortunately, after 40 years, the Harbor Shop of Pass Christian passed out of existence in 1995, but its generosity to the needy and its community promotions, continues on as the Gazebo keeps its stately posture at the Park.

The Gazebo project was estimated to cost $7000.00. Under the leadership of its president, Mrs. Mary Fitzpatrick, the "Ladies of the Harbor Shop" donated the first $4000.00, with the remaining $3000.00 derived from individuals and civic organizations such as: the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society, V.F.W. Post 5931 and its Ladies Auxiliary, the Beta Sigma Phi -- Xi Theta Chapter, the Henderson Point - Pass Christian Isles Civic Association, St. Paul's Catholic Church, and the Art Association. Service and product contributions were generously given by local businesses, such as: Hancock Bank, L&B Enterprises, Coast Wholesale Supply, Coast Cable T.V., Dale Thompson for design, Edward Reid for electrical, Tom's Welding Service, Frank Pierson & Son's for brickwork, Isaiah Johnson for cement finishing, Bourdin Brothers for plumbing, and Jake Bell for sand.

The actual construction was a labor of love offered by Jean and Lee Stanbro. The initial idea was a dream come true for Coral Trepagnier, who envisioned a beautiful, restful place to gaze upon the sunsets; and from where musicians, artists, oratory and theatrics could perform and as a place to reach out to community residents and visitors.

The Gazebo was dedicated by the Ladies of the Harbor Shop and City leaders led by Mayor Gordon Bishop on Sunday, May 6, 1984. Landscaping was provided by Bob Doe and the Pass Christian Garden Club.

The Pass Christian Gazebo has become the *"Hallmark of the Pass"* as seen on City Hall stationary, the Mayor's business card, Christmas in the Pass placards, Pass Merchant's tourist brochures, and photographed frequently for news articles about the Pass. Famed, local artist, *Tazewell* Morton, sketched its replica in 1990, as his offering to the City.

It only took the initiative of a few ladies to open their organization's savings to start an avalanche of support from other responsive organizations, businesses and individuals. Without such wonderful volunteerism and the spirit of community giving, there would be no Gazebo in the Pass.

THE MILLENNIUM

In preparing for the Millennium, are you going to celebrate the occasion during the year 2000, or the year 2001? According to a recent news report in *USA Today*, the issue is not debatable. The report states that the current millennium -- and the 20th century -- ends with the year 2000. **Therefore, the year of the Millennium is 2001.**

The reason for this calendar conclusion is simple. In the year 525, yes, 5-2-5, Dionysius Exiguus, the sixth century chronologist who introduced the A.D. calendar, started with the year A.D. 1., not A.D. "0". And, his year of "A.D. 1", immediately followed the year "B.C. 1", thereby ignoring a Zero-base start-up.

With no "zero" year, the first decade of the A.D. calendar ended with year 10, the first century ended with 100, the first millennium ended with 1000, and therefore, without further obfuscation, the second millennium will end with the year 2000. And, further concludes, that the third millennium and the 21st century will **begin** with the year 2001.

The news release explained that unless sometime during the past 2,000 years, a year was lost, the next millennium remains with the start of 2001. It is not surprising that many people, including local newspapers, are reporting it differently. After all, who was Dionysius Exiguus?

For certain, there will be many people celebrating both years, and why not, Webster reports Dionysus (different spelling) as the Greek God of Wine. *Laissez les bontemps rouler*, or, Let's have a Dionysian blast -- we can celebrate the end of one millennium -- followed by the beginning of a new millennium.

How people can make a difference

That was the title of the Editorial describing First Lady Pat Fordice and Billy Bourdin on the day following the excellent review about Billy's "Snapshots of History", a full-page spread in the Sun Herald dated March 3rd.

Pat Fordice was quoted as stating that "it is the people of Mississippi who make this a great state." And the Sun Herald editorial followed with, "Consider, for example, the story in Tuesday's issue about Billy Bourdin. Bourdin was a plumber by trade but local history is his love. That inspired him to assemble more than 250 photographs of his beloved Pass Christian along with postcards, news clips, paintings, and other memorabilia."

For the past week, droves of friends and locals were dropping in to congratulate him and some new ones included Rev. Harvey Thornton, new pastor of First Baptist Church at 322 East Second Street. He took the opportunity to applaud Billy and also passed out Bible tracts to those of us who dropped in with an invitation to everyone to attend his 11:00 a.m. Sunday services

What's next, Billy? We're all proud of you!

MMM.....!!!! Boy Scout Breakfast!

Boy Scout Troop #316 will be preparing breakfast on Sunday, March 15th at Trinity Parish Hall to raise funds for an equipment trailer.

Breakfast will be served 7am to 9:30am and priced at $3.00.

COME SUPPORT OUR FUTURE LEADERS!

Pass Christian Area
Colonization Tricentennial Kickoff Dinner
St. Paul Auditorium, April 2, 1998, 6:00 p.m.

Program

Entertainment by **Davis & Sax**

Entrance Reception -- **Paul Bode**

Social and Dining from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Call to Order 7:00 -- **Ken Austin**

Invocation -- **Rev. Christopher Colby**
Pastor, Trinity Episcopal Church

Presentation of Colors and Pledge -- **Boy Scouts Troop #316**

Master of Ceremonies -- **Billy McDonald**
Mayor, City of Pass Christian

Eight Flag Review -- **Myrna Bourgeois**
Area High Schools -- Classes of 1999 & 2000

Tricentennial Mission Statement -- **Dayton Robinson**

Biloxi Tricentennial Commission -- **Gwen Gollotte**

Steering Committee Members Introduction -- **Dan Ellis**
Each Committee Member recognize their guests to stand

Introduction of Michelle Smith, Sculptor/Donor -- **Dr. A. C. Smith**
Unveiling of d'Iberville -- **Michelle Smith**

Keynote Address -- **Dr. Philip Terrell**
Superintendent, Pass Christian School System

Blessing -- **Rev. Father Ron Herzog**
Pastor, St. Paul Catholic Church

The Pass Christian Area Tricenntenial Committee wishes to thank the following sponsors for their help in making this kickoff event possible.

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Chimneys Restaurant
St. Louis Street Café
Annies
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Second Street Deli
Sun Coast Industrial and Business Supply
Tracy Gordon Goff
Harbor View Café
The Rusty Pelican
Café du Soleil
Sheriff Joe Price
Jitney Supermarket
Ken Austin

VENUE and COORDINATION

St. Paul Catholic Church
Virgil Harris

LIGHTING

Steven Foster

FLAG PRESENTATION

Boy Scout Troup #316
Margie Hamilton
St. Stanislaus
Myrna Bourgeois
Pass Christian High
Our Lady Academy

DECORATIONS

Pass Christian Garden Club
Jean Moreland

TEE SHIRTS and PRINTING

The Stuffed Shirt
Jayme Condra
Southern Printing
Jolly Rogers Printing

d'IBERVILLE BUST

Michelle Smith
Dr. A C Smith

...and the City of Pass Christian and our many volunteers who have worked to greet and serve you this evening.

The French Flag

The Bourbon Flag, 1682-1763

Early French influence in the New World began in Canada with the founding of New Foundland, Nova Scotia, Hudson Bay, and eventually Quebec, in 1608. Father Marquette and Joliet initiated explorations of the Mississippi valley followed by De La Salle's expeditions. His first voyage, from Montreal in 1669, was unsuccessful and was followed by another in 1680, having arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi River on April 9, 1682, where he erected a cross blazoned with the French Coat of Arms and proclaimed formal possession of the river and all its tributaries, and of all the lands, in the name of Louis XIV, King of France. He named the lands Louisiana.

The baton was passed to Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, of French Canada. According to *Iberville's Journals*, he was instructed by King Louis XIV, to "go to the Gulf of Mexico, locate the mouth . . . select a good site that can be defended with a few men, and block entry to the river by other nations." He landed at Ship Island on February 10, 1699.

Steering Committee Meeting

The Tricentennial Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 17th at 10am in the Pass Christian Historical Society Building located on Scenic Drive.

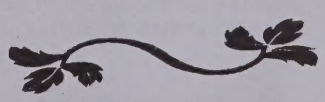
Tale the Marsupials

The Bayogoula Indian villages had a temple built 8-foot-wide and 12-foot-long supported by two big posts with a cross-beam. Beside the temple door were several figures of animals; such as bears, wolves, and birds. The door of the temple measured 3-feet-high and 2-feet-wide. Inside at the far end -- there was a raised platform with several bundles of the skins of deer, bear, and buffalo, which were offerings to their god, the *Choucouacha.* There were no windows, a dim light came from a two-foot-hole above, the ground floor was covered with sand. Bunk like beds were raised two feet above the ground with cross pieces of red wood nearly six inches thick.

During ceremonies, the men were naked except for a cloak made of bark -- their hair was short cropped, and tatoos marked their faces and bodies. Some of them carried flat plates from their belts, which clanged and kept a beat for the dance routines. The women wore an apron-like covering and nothing else on their bodies -- except that they blackened their teeth for adornment. They carried feathers in their hands, which were used as fans and to keep beat with the drums. Tufts of feathers were neatly braided into their hair.

They would dance for more than 3 hours in merriment and frolic. Outside the temple was a maypole painted red with several fish heads and bear bones tied to it in sacrifice. Everything around the temple was dead with stench as they danced to their god, the *Choucouacha.*

In the Indian temple there were figures of their god. The Bayogoula Indians had shown Iberville the *Choucouacha*, which is an animal that has a head like a suckling pig's and about as big -- with hair like a badger's, but gray and white -- and a tail like a rat's, and paws like a monkey's, and under the belly, has a pouch in which it generates its young and suckles them. Iberville claimed to have killed eight of the opossums.



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The Tricentenial

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